

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM CHARGE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF SECRETARY'S TRIP AND FOLLOW-UP

REF: A-STATE 61171, B- MEXICO 2374, C- MEXICO 2417

OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT IMPACT IN MEXICO OF SECRETARY'S TRIP WAS SLIGHT DESPITE ABUNDANT MEDIA COVERAGE. MEXICANS SAW TRIP AS BELATED ACCOMPLISHMENT OF MUCH-POSTPONED COMMITMENT TO VISIT LATIN AMERICA AND NOT AS FRESH INITIATIVE MEANINGFULLY UNDERTAKEN WITH RELATION TO CURRENT PROBLEMS. THEIR EXPECTATIONS WERE NOT RAISED BY THE TRIP AND REACTION TENEDED TO BE SUPERFICIAL, FOCUSING UPON THE U.S.-BRAZIL AGREEMENT (WHICH CAUSED SOME RESENTMENT HERE), REFERENCES TO CUBA, AND REPORTS OF PUBLIC DISTURBANCES IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT. PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS TO LA EXPRESSED BY SECRETARY ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE PENETRATING EFFECT ON MEXICAN PUBLIC OPINION, LONG CONDITIONED TO ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION TO SKEPTICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. GOM OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, MAY BE EXPECTED TO CALL UPON U.S. PLEDGES TO BOLSTER MEXICAN POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS AS WELL AS ON BILATERAL ISSUES. THE GOM MAY ALSO BE EXPECTED TO RESIST WHAT MANY MEXICANS SEE AS USG

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EFFORT, EVIDENT IN U.S.-BRAZIL AGREEMENT, TO "DIVIDE AND

RULE" LATIN AMERICA. ON CUBA: MEXICANS SEEM TO HAVE
TAKEN US AT OUR WORD THAT SECRETARY'S TRIP WAS NOT ANTI-
CUBA CRUSADE AND WE PERCEIVE NO CHANGE IN OFFICIAL OR
PRIVATE ATTITUDES TOWARD CUBAN INTERVENTION AS RESULT
OF THE TRIP. THOUGH WE HEAR THAT ECHEVERRIA IS PRIVATELY
"CONCERNED" OVER CUBAN ROLE IN ANGOLA, MEXICO STILL SEEMS
A LONG WAY FROM SEEING CUBA AS A REAL AND PRESENT DANGER
IN THIS HEMISPHERE.
THOMPSON

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